

Avon Lake United Church of Christ  
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# *The Drummer*

**December 16, 2009**  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

## **2009 ALUCC ADVENT MEN'S BREAKFAST SERIES**

The third and final Men's Advent Breakfast takes place Friday, December 18. Dr. Scott Seipel, Optometrist, will speak about eye health. Join us at 6:30 am in Fellowship Hall for a \$4.00 meal that includes oatmeal, scrambled eggs, bacon, hash browns, toast, juice and coffee. You'll be on your way to work by 7:30. For more info, please contact Bob Fisher.

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Worship & Sunday School at 9 & 11. We light the fourth Advent candle, the candle of love. Kelly Brill's sermon, based on Luke 1:39-55, is entitled, "What Song Are You Singing?"

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE**

ALUCC choirs, Deacons, and church staff are preparing for this year's Christmas Eve worship celebrations. All are welcome! Invite friends and family!

Details about each service:

- **5 PM:** This service is designed especially for families with young children. It is a 40-45 minute service. The Baroque Bells provide anthems. Instead of a sermon, children are invited to hear a Christmas story.  
Note: children who play the piano are invited to play a Christmas piece while people are arriving. Please contact the church office (440-933-3241 or [office@thealucc.org](mailto:office@thealucc.org)) if your child would like to play.
- **7 PM:** Candlelight service with a contemporary feel. Pete Cavano leads a band and a team of vocalists leads singing. Video elements are incorporated.
- **9 PM:** Service of Lessons, Carols, Candlelight, and Music. Featuring the Sanctuary Singers.
- **11 PM:** Service of Lessons, Carols, Candlelight, Music, and Communion. Featuring the Chancel Choir.

At 7, 9 and 11 this year, Kelly and Doug Brill will share a dramatic retelling of the story of Mary and Joseph.

**WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 27 IS AT 10 AM:** We will celebrate the baptism of Elizabeth Nadine Grendow. The nursery will be staffed and Sunday School is offered for children, age 3 - 7<sup>th</sup> grade. (The 9 & 11 AM worship schedule resumes on January 3.)

**HAVEN CENTER CHRISTMAS DINNER:** On December 19, we will be cooking dinner for the families in Lorain County's homeless shelter, Haven Center. Every Christmas we have tried to give a special meal to the residents there. This year we expect there will be 60+ persons in shelter, waiting for our special meal. We bring stuffed pork chops (which the residents of Haven Center have requested as they seldom get pork), cheesy potatoes, green bean casserole, dinner rolls and desserts. Donations of these items (or monetary donations) are greatly appreciated. Mary Pease coordinates our meals for Haven Center.

### **A WORD FROM KELLY**

Christmas is a time for memories. I enjoy remembering one Christmas when my son was about 3. He came down the stairs from his bedroom on Christmas morning, saw what Santa Claus had left for him, pointed delightedly, and said, "Look!" His eyes were bright with excitement. The gifts were not lavish or expensive, but the moment was priceless.

This memory reminds me that:

1. It's people, not things, that bring the best memories. When we focus more on what we're buying, how we're decorating, and the meals we're preparing than on the people around us, we're losing sight of what matters most.
2. Giving brings deep joy. I have seen it this year, again and again, as members have said to me, "I want to help someone else this year. Please help me connect to someone in need." Sometimes I feel like the church matchmaker, as I am able to relay what one family needs to what another person wants to give. Then I get to turn around and deliver these gifts, spreading the love throughout our church family. It's a wonderful part of my job.

On behalf of the entire church staff, I wish you a joyous Christmas. Make memories that you will treasure!

### **FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER & FELLOWSHIP**

Sharing Christmas, Inc. invites you to be their guest for dinner at the annual Christmas Dinner and Fellowship. This is held at St. Vincent DePaul Church at 41295 North Ridge Rd., Elyria (near the intersection of Rt. 254 & 57). The dinner of turkey, ham and all the trimmings & dessert is held on Christmas Day from noon to 2:30. Transportation and/or delivery is also available by calling 324-5212 x 137 in advance or 324-4606 on Christmas Day. Sharing Christmas is an ecumenical group of Christians who will not only welcome all, but will also serve you. Questions? Contact Bob Reich (prior Board member) @ 930-5370 or <bjreich@oh.rr.com>.

**STAMPS:** Please bring in your used postage stamps and place them in the box outside the office. Please leave approximately ¼ inch of paper around the stamp for trimming. Please leave postcards whole. This is a Women's League fundraising project. Thank you.

**MASSAGES BENEFIT CHURCH!** Please take advantage of this opportunity to help the church, your family/friends and yourself. Massage Gift Certificates will be sold through Valerie in the church office. All proceeds go to the church: (30 minutes/\$30.00; 60 minutes/\$50.00; & 90 minutes/\$75.00). Make checks payable to ALUCC & redeem your massages by scheduling with Karen Wirtz during each month's time slots. Upcoming date is December 22, 7 PM & 8:15 PM. All massages are given in the Bride's Room. For an appointment & to discuss various massages options, call Karen at 930-4396.

**YEAR-END GIFTS TO THE CHURCH:** You may make donations to the church through December 31, and they will appear on your year-end statement for tax purposes. The church office will close at 2 PM on the 31<sup>st</sup>; please have your donations here before that time. Gifts may be made to the general fund, or any number of other funds. The Pastoral Fund is used to help members in need. The Memorial Garden fund is used for purchasing more landscaping as well as for garden upkeep. The Music fund aids in the purchase of music and the hiring of guest artists. The Endowment fund is invested, with the interest income used to support various ministries. There are other ways to direct your giving, as well. For information about any of these opportunities to support the church, please contact Kelly Brill (440-933-3241; [pastor@thealucc.org](mailto:pastor@thealucc.org).)

## RETREATS

- **WOMEN'S RETREAT:** This year's women's retreat will take place at the Jesuit Retreat House in Parma, January 8-9. The theme is "Start the New Year With Joy!" This 22-hour retreat is an opportunity to begin the new year with new friends and a new spiritual outlook. Registration forms available on the website and at the Welcome Center. Register soon! Invite a friend, neighbor or relative!
- **WINTER RETREAT:** Join staff members Kelly Brill, Marilyn Sommer, Nate Taylor and 50 other church members who have signed up for the February 19-21 winter retreat, to be held at UCC church camp Pilgrim Hills. There will be scheduled and unscheduled time, group activities, games, discussion, worship, and fun. Pick up a registration packet for more information.
- **MEN'S 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL RETREAT, SATURDAY, MARCH 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010:** **All men are invited.** If you're new to the congregation this is a great way to meet and get better acquainted with the men at ALUCC. It is a nice relaxing day where you can share and listen to life experiences & stories with the men of our church and the men of our sister church St. Paul's. There are no Altar calls and no pressure. If you haven't tried the retreat, give it a chance. **The Retreat is Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am - 4:00pm.** Registration will start at 7:45. Cost is \$30 and breakfast and lunch will be provided. Retreat will be held at the AQUA MARINE CLUB HOUSE off of Lake Road or Miller Road. Make checks out to ALUCC and mark Men's retreat on the envelope and drop in the collection plate. Scholarship funds are available and confidential. Please call Kim Yonkers 937-5633 if you have any questions.

**THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING!!!** The **GOLDEN GATES** group from Russia will be making a return appearance in our sanctuary the evening of Saturday, January 9. This will feature four adult Russian instrumentalists and 11 youth singers/dancers. More details will follow, but save the date for this awesome group.

## **SWINGTIME: 1944**

On Sunday, February 14, Avon Lake UCC presents "Swingtime: 1944." This musical revue, featuring some of the favorite songs of the era, is designed for adults of all ages and generations.

The performers (whom many of you saw at Doug and Kelly's wedding) are Ray Ewers, Peggy Gibbons, Cindy Smith, and Casey Wolnowski.

Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for seniors 65 and above.) The price includes pre-show refreshments, beverages at intermission, and desserts after the performance. Tickets are available in the church office, or at the Welcome Center after worship, and will make wonderful Christmas presents. Call the church office for more information and to make reservations.

## **DECK THE HALLS WITH BOOKS AND HOLLY!**

Children's/Youth Christmas books:

<i>A Baby Is Coming</i>	<i>Child's View of Christmas</i>
<i>Legend of the Candy Cane</i>	<i>Christmas Day Kitten</i>
<i>Joseph's Story</i>	<i>Baby Jesus</i>
<i>Legend of the Christmas Rose</i>	<i>Shepherd Boy's Christmas</i>
<i>A Stable in Bethlehem</i>	<i>Christmas Star</i>
<i>First Christmas</i>	

Videos: *Veggie Tales: Saint Nicholas – A Story of Cheerful Giving*  
*Christmas Carols* *The Nativity*  
*The Star of Christmas* *Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer*  
*The Holidays* *It's Wonderful Life*

CD: *Veggie Tales – A Very Veggie Christmas*

More Books for Kids: *Feliz Navidad Pablo – A Christmas Story*  
*The New Star* *The Wonder of Christmas*  
*Gift of the Magi* *The Best Christmas Pageant ever*  
*The Christmas Mouse* *Journey to Bethlehem*

Adult books: *Better Homes and Garden's Treasury of Christmas*  
*Joy to the World* *Shepherd's Abiding*  
*Skipping Christmas* *Advent and Christmas Crafts*  
*Christmas Is Coming* *Christmas Almanack*  
*Let's Keep Christmas* *Take Joy!*  
*Christmas Crafts for Everyone*

Merry Christmas and happy reading! Diane Bayley, Librarian

**DID YOU KNOW**...that you can contribute to the church through an Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)? Many people like to pay their bills automatically. It's convenient for you, and the church appreciates the steady income throughout the seasons. Contact Valerie Tanzilli in the church office for more information.

**ALUCC PRAYER LIST:** We update this list at the beginning of each month. Please contact the church office by phone (933-3241) or email ([pastor@thealucc.org](mailto:pastor@thealucc.org)) to send an update or to add a name.

**New on the Prayer List:** Fran Baird hospitalized, Phoebe Hostetler, recuperating.

**Update on the Prayer List:** Wally Paine recuperating after surgery.

**Members with Health Concerns:** Larry Arnold, Carolyn Cerney, George and Edie Horst, Christin Lucas, Jinny Manning, Ellie Mental, Rosie Stuebner, Bette Uhle, Tom Walther.

**Members Receiving Treatment for Cancer:** Linda Brown, Jeremy George.

**Friends and Relatives Receiving Treatment for Cancer:** Barbara Boyte, Tom Brunner, Carol Gould, Becky Grendow, Carl Grendow, Jane Laird, Linda Norman, Lisa Norman, Lisa Nusbaum, Louis Pena, John Piskura, Sally Rapp, Sharon Russell, Susan Stoner.

**Friends and Relatives of Members:** Mary Esther Barnes, Mac Carr, Joyce Dorbish, Brandon Hiller, Clem Hodge, Karen Holdridge, Mick Haddox, David Macleod, Connie Remein, Sam Taylor, Larry Verga.

**In Hospice Care:** Jane Bates, Dorothy Crawford.

**Sympathy** to Joyce Young on the death of her mother, Verna Bogucki, on December 10. Sympathy also to the family of Gene Rearick, who passed away December 14.

**Serving Overseas:** Franklin Abbey, Raimil Hathaway, Jeremy Horning, Charles Parker, Tadd Schultz, Brandon Turner.

Please remember our members who are homebound and in rehab or nursing home care.

**REMINDER:** If you or a loved one are in the hospital and wish prayers or visits from the church, please call the church office. Otherwise, we may not know you're there!

**Parish Nurse Hours:** Wednesdays, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Evenings by appointment (confidential line 930-4766). Email: [cherylupdegraff@oh.rr.com](mailto:cherylupdegraff@oh.rr.com)

**COFFEE HOUR:** Please sign up to host or co-host an upcoming Coffee Hour! It's such an important part of our community life – both for old friends wanting to connect and for new guests wanting to meet others. The Board of Deacons will answer any questions you might have. Instruction sheets are available on the website and at the Welcome Center. Remember – Coffee Hour doesn't have to be elaborate. Thank you!

**ROSE BOWL PARTY!** There will be a ROSE BOWL PARTY at the ALUCC!!! We will begin @ 4:30 with the kickoff scheduled for 5:10pm. Bringing roses is optional, but please bring some food to share. This will NOT be a dry party as a variety of pop, coffee and hot chocolate will be provided (along with the paper & plastic goods). Invite others to come with you as we (hopefully) celebrate a Buckeye victory. Questions? Contact Bob Reich (930-5370 or [bjreich@oh.rr.com](mailto:bjreich@oh.rr.com)).

**RIDES TO AIRPORT OFFERED:** Jim Wise will provide transportation to and from the airport to any member, in exchange for a donation to the church. If you ever need a ride to the airport, and/or a pick-up, please call Jim at 440-933-3120 (home phone) or 216-337-8537 (cell phone.)

## **UPCOMING GREETERS, USHERS, ACOLYTES, COFFEE HOUR HOSTS**

**December 20: 9 AM** greeters: Jim & Valerie Tanzilli

Ushers: Allan Czapor, Paul & Molly Dunford, TJ Frie, Jim & Jean Grady

Acolytes: Samantha Farmer and Kevin Knip

Coffee Hour: Bob, Lynn, Grace & Greg Miller

Welcome Center: Bonnie Rademacher

**11 AM** greeters: Phil, Maureen, Ian & Erin Johnson

Ushers: TJ Frie, Jennifer Gould, Bill & Sharon Parsons

Acolytes: Addison Reimer

Coffee Hour:

Welcome Center: Jan Kipple

**December 24: 5 PM** greeters: Rob, Cindy, Grant, Cole & Lauren Thatcher

Ushers: Dave Dibbell, Jodi Foley, Bonnie Kitral, Tom & Jan Hamilton,  
Deanna Spishak

Acolytes: Samantha Farmer and Grant Thatcher

Welcome Center: Jan Kipple

**7 PM:** greeters: Jan Kipple and Jim Wise

Ushers: Brad & Bev Johnson, Tim, Janet, Nicole & Taylor Thomas

Acolytes: Isabel Johnson

Welcome Center: Bob Reich

**9 PM:** greeters: Paul & Jean Tremblay

Ushers: Dale & Donna Cracas, Larry, Claudia, Jason & Ashley Forbes

Acolytes: Maddie Camp and Kenny Pierson

Welcome Center: Bob Reich

**11 PM:**greeters: Richard Turner

Ushers: Jamie & Chris Clemons, Don, Joyce, Jake & Emily Young

Acolytes: Emily Birk

Welcome Center:

**December 27: 10 AM**

Greeters: Brad, Bev, Isaac & Isabel Johnson

Ushers: Phil, Maureen & Ian Johnson, Shelley Marsh, Bill & Sharon Parsons

Acolytes: Haley DeChant and Rebecca Plow

Coffee Hour:

Welcome Center: Jan Kipple